

## The Progressive Farmer.

L. L. POLK, Editor.  
D. H. BROWDER, Business Manager.  
Raleigh, N. C.

### SUBSCRIPTION:

Single Subscriber, One Year \$1.25  
Five Subscribers, One Year \$5.00  
Ten Subscribers, One Year \$10.00  
One copy one year free, to the one sending Club of Ten.

Money at our risk, if sent by registered letter or money order.  
Advertising Rates quoted on application.

To Correspondents:  
Write all communications, designed for publication, on one side of the paper only.  
We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State. We want facts of value, results accomplished or value, experiences of value, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrated fact is worth a thousand theories.  
Address all communications to:  
THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Raleigh, N. C.

RALEIGH, N. C., FEB. 12, 1889.

[This paper entered as second-class matter at the Post Office in Raleigh, N. C.]

The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' Association and N. C. State Farmers' Alliance, and the Virginia State Farmers' Alliance.

Do you want your paper changed to another office? State the one at which you have been getting it.

Do you want your communication published? If so, give us your real name and your postoffice.

Our friends in writing to any of our advertisers, will favor us by mentioning the fact that they saw the advertisement in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

The date on your label tells you when your time is out.

### THE FERTILIZER TAX.

WHO pays it? It is absolutely and undeniably certain that if paid by any of our citizens, it is paid only by the farmers who use fertilizers. Hence the law establishing our Department of Agriculture, contemplated that the fund created by this tax should be used for the promotion and advancement of the interests of the farmers of the State. But how has it been used?

Tens of thousands of dollars of it have been used in the interest of Immigration. We will not stop here to enquire for the fruits of this expenditure. But why go to a fund which belongs to the farmers to run the immigration department?

Are they the only ones to be benefited by immigration? If not, we ask in the name of justice, why their funds alone should be expended for it? If other citizens and other interests share its benefits, why should it not be paid out of our General Treasury? The farmer, it must be remembered, pays his full share of taxes into that treasury and if the money is drawn from that treasury he then pays his proportion. Why some one be kind enough to tell us why the farmers' fund should be taxed to run the immigration department?

Thousands of dollars of the farmers' fund have been expended on oyster surveys. Will some one kindly tell us if the farmers of our State are the only class of our citizens who are interested in the propagation of oysters? If not, why compel them and them alone to pay for it? Why not the State pay for it? Two thousand dollars per annum is drawn from their fund to support the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Was this bureau established at their request? Are they the only ones to be benefited by this bureau? If not, why should their funds alone be taxed to keep it up? Was not this bureau established for and by the Knights of Labor? How many thousands of dollars of this money has been used in making coal surveys? How many spent in the publication of geological surveys? The farmers of the Legislature can find some interesting facts along this line, if they will look for them.

Are the farmers who use fertilizers to furnish (in addition to their general taxes) a Contingent Fund upon which every new experiment or new venture or new enterprise, must feed and fatten at will?

We are not discussing the merits of the various objects for which the farmers' fund has been so freely and liberally expended—but if the State wants immigration—if she wants oyster propagation; if it wants a labor bureau; if it wants coal surveys, let it do like a great and honorable State—go to its treasury and pay for them. It is unjust, it is unfair and outrageous to make the farmers of the State pay their full share of the taxes and then require them to keep up all these other enterprises in which no other class of tax-payers in the State has a less interest than they.

We hear much of "class legislation," and here we have it with a vengeance.

We are aware that some of our farmers desire to see this fertilizer tax abolished, but it is because so much of it has been frittered away without any appreciable or practical results. It is because they see it is being used for purposes foreign to the original design. If any one pays this tax it is the one who uses the fertilizer, and he has sense enough to know it, and he is not willing to be thus imposed upon.

We would regard the repeal of that

tax as a calamity to our farmers, because they must have some protection against fraud, if they use fertilizers, and their only protection comes through that tax. We hope the present Legislature will see to it that this farmers' fund is applied and used for the direct benefit of the farmers of the State. Let it be applied to establish their school and farm and workshops, &c., where they may send their sons and learn them how to make a living in the world. Then they would enjoy its full benefits. They demand fair and honest dealing in this matter. They want the present Legislature to put a stop to this unfair and unjust treatment.

### THE BILL TO ESTABLISH A RAILROAD COMMISSION.

THE bill as agreed upon by the joint select committee on this subject embraces the following features: It provides for three commissioners, to be elected by the Legislature for their first term and afterward by the popular vote, holding their offices respectively for a term of two, four and six years. One shall have experience in the law, one in mercantile, manufacturing or mechanical pursuits or in railway business and one a practical farmer. They receive \$2,500 each per annum with a clerk at \$1,200. They are required to take the following oath of office:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am not the owner of any railroad stock or bond, or the agent, attorney or employee of any railroad company; that I have no interest in any way in any railroad, and that I will well and faithfully execute the duties of my office of Railroad Commissioner to the best of my knowledge and ability, without fear, favor or malice, or reward, or the hope of reward. So help me God."

The Governor shall suspend a Commissioner for certain causes and fill vacancy until next meeting of General Assembly. The Commissioners are empowered to administer oaths. If any railroad operating in this State shall charge more than reasonable rates on passengers or freights or make any unjust discrimination in the same, shall be regarded as violating this act. They are empowered to make reasonable and just rates of freight and passenger tariffs, to prevent unjust discriminations in charges on lines in this State and in certain cases they may make complaint before the Inter-State Commission. They are to establish schedules of rates for each road in the State and revise them as necessity may require. Any railroad may appeal from decisions of the Commissioners in the manner prescribed by the Act. Commissioners to visit depots, stations and places of business, investigate books, examine agents and employees. All contracts between railroads of the State to be submitted to the Commission, and all agreements for a division of earnings between competing roads to be submitted to them for approval. If any road violates the rules and regulations of the Commission and does not make reparation it incurs a penalty of not less \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000 for each offence. The railroad companies, on demand, shall issue duplicate freight receipts to shippers, stating class of freight and the charges over the roads. Commission to make annual report to the Governor. They may subpoena witnesses, who shall receive two dollars per day and five cents per mile, to be paid on warrant of the Governor. Any Judge of a Superior Court may punish witness for refusal to obey subpoena. The sheriffs of the State shall serve any process, subpoena or notice issued by the Commissioners, and are allowed the same fees as if issued from the Superior Court. Any officer, agent or employee who shall refuse to furnish reports required by Commission or shall wilfully hinder, delay or obstruct the Commission in the discharge of its lawful duty shall be fined not less than \$100, nor more than \$1,000 for each offence. The Commission and clerk are to be transported free in the discharge of their duties. All laws and parts of laws allowing greater rates of freight than are fixed by the Commission are repealed.

### RULES FOR ALLIANCE MEN.

HELP yourself.

Learn to make a dollar and then learn to live on ninety cents of it. Don't worry yourself about plans and schemes for buying goods, but study hard how not to buy them. If you would fight trusts and combinations successfully, you must have your crib well stored with corn and your meat house well supplied.

Study this question: Did a gracious Providence give me this land of such wonderfully varied capabilities simply to produce one single crop on it?

If you would have cheap meat and bread and cheap stock—raise it.

To get out of debt, lessen your expenses and increase your profits.

Study your business as closely as does the merchant, the manufacturer, the physician and the lawyer.

Rely more on your own brains and energy and industry and economy and you will grow more and more independent.

Be faithful to the principles of your Order.

### COMPETITION IN FREIGHT RATES.

Senator Reid's Amendment.

ONE of the most important and significant votes taken in our Legislature this session will be found recorded in our "Legislative notes" on a proposition of Senator Reid, to prevent a railroad from entering into any combination by which legitimate competition in freight rates should be impaired or destroyed. It was voted down and our readers will see the names of those who voted on it.

The great struggle between the railroads and the people is now, and has been for years, on this very point. The celebrated Granger suits of the Northwest against the railroads and the Inter-State Commerce Act, were founded on the idea expressed in Senator Reid's amendment. The powerful demand now urged on our Legislature for a railroad commission involves this very principle. If these just and righteous measures are voted down it shall not be the fault of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER if the people are not informed of it.

### FARMERS READ IT.

WE have been kindly furnished with a plan for a cheap silo and how to fill it by Mr. Elias Carr, the Chairman of our State Alliance Executive Committee, and which will be found in another column. Mr. Carr is one of the leading and most successful farmers in our State and is one of the men who can always give good reasons for what he does, because he is careful to do nothing without first having a good reason for doing it and herein lies his success. He studies his business. Of the thousands of farmers of the South who will read his article there is not one of them who will not be benefited twenty times more than THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER costs him, if he will follow the wise suggestions of Mr. Carr.

The first and most important question for the Southern farmer is "how can I make my farm self sustaining?" This much he must accomplish before he can ever hope to make any money. It is agreed among those of our most progressive farmers who have made ensilage for several years past and whose experience and success entitles them to a respectful hearing, that it costs not exceeding two dollars per ton to put it up—ten cents per hundred.

We trust that the Alliance all over the South will at once take steps to build at least enough silos in each Alliance jurisdiction to satisfy themselves that it is a safe and cheap method of providing winter food for their stock. What Alliance in North Carolina will be the first to take the initiative step in this very important matter. Discuss it and ask such questions relating to it as you may desire answered, through THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and they shall be answered. Now is the time to begin to prepare for it. If rightly considered and wisely adopted it will save hundreds of thousands of dollars to North Carolina farmers in this year, 1889. Who will be first to take hold of it? Write us.

### THE ALABAMA FARMERS ON IMMIGRATION.

THE Agricultural Society of Alabama, last summer, adopted a resolution asking its Legislature to expend \$20,000 in the interest of immigration. The Farmers' Alliance of Tuscaloosa county has issued a very strong protest against such a measure and asks the Legislature to detach the subject of Immigration from the Department of Agriculture.

### LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

SENATOR WILLIAMS' bill to fix the rate of interest at six per cent, was warmly discussed and passed its second reading by a vote of 34 to 4. The bill to prevent trusts and combinations was made the special order for the 12th inst. Bill to amend charter of Norfolk & Southern Railroad, providing for its extension from Edenton to "some point on the South Carolina line." Several amendments were offered. One by Senator Williams, that the provisions should not apply to the county of Pitt, was adopted. Senator Reid offered an amendment to the effect that the management of the road should not enter into any pool or combination which should have the effect of destroying legitimate competition and it was voted down by the following vote:

Ayes—Messrs. Blair, Briggs, LeGrand, Moore, Payne, Reid, Sills, Turner of Irredell, White, Williams of Cumberland, Williams of Pitt—11.

Noes—Messrs. Abbott, Aycock, Bailey, Banks, Barber, Bennett, Brock, Brown, Campbell, Copeland, Crawford, Emery, Falkner, Green, Hampton, Holton, Hughes, Kerr, Leeper, Leinback, Little, Lucas, Lusk, Means, Poir, Rice, Robinson, Smith, Thomas, Toms, Turner of Catawba, Twitty, Warriner, Wimberly—34.

The O. F. & Y. V. R. R. Co. memorialized the Legislature to repeal all laws granting convict labor to that road and to authorize the State Treasurer to return the bonds of the company, "and thus settle forever the troublesome question of convict labor, so far as this road is concerned." The

bill to make the penitentiary self-sustaining passed the House. It provides that no more convict labor shall be given away. The Roanoke & Southern Railroad takes 300 convicts under this bill for a term of years and pays for each \$150 a year. The bill provides for the working of convicts on the Murphy Branch of the Western Road under a former contract.

The bill to promote the efficiency of the State Guard, provides for 30 companies with an annual appropriation of \$300 to each company and an annual appropriation of \$5,000 to an Encampment. The bill failed to pass. A bill to open up the public lands of the State for entry was passed in the House. Mr. Carter, of Buncombe, stated that the State had expended \$226,000 on draining these lands and up to 1887 had only received \$32,000 from the sale of these lands. He said, further, that the State had lost 90,000 acres of these lands because of the matter of title. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER thanks Mr. Carter for bringing these facts to light, as we hope it will aid the Legislature in deciding definitely that the policy of the State henceforth will be not to fritter away our convict labor.

It is understood that the committee on a Railroad Commission will be ready to report a bill today (the 12th). The Legislature is very conservative and seems to have settled down on a determination to spend no money uselessly or that can well be avoided.

### INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

WE begin with this issue the publication of a series of articles on the subject of Industrial Education, from the pen of Gen. S. D. Lee, the distinguished President of the Mississippi Agricultural College. His scholarly mind, his practical judgment and large experience as the successful manager of the finest Agricultural College in all the South, and which ranks among the very foremost in all the country, invests his articles with special interest and value. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER regards itself as fortunate in being thus enabled to supply its readers with the presentation of this great and important subject by one whose practical and successful application of the principles and views therein set forth, entitle him to our most respectful consideration. A great and imperative need in our system of education is practical, technical training and preparation for the battle of life, and our columns cannot be more profitably employed than in its discussion and we, therefore, most gladly give space to the able pen of Gen. Lee. We bespeak a careful reading and study of his views.

### THE HOMESTEAD.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, since its first issue, has regarded the Homestead in our State as a great evil to the poorer and middle classes of our people. It has not hesitated to declare its views on this subject. The writer has discussed it before the people in various sections of the State, and has found the people with him. All admit that something ought to be done, but what that something should be, we have not been able to find any one to say. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, therefore, submits the following suggestions: Let the Legislature submit to the vote of the people the following amendments to the Constitution:

To make the Homestead \$500 or \$700, instead of \$1,500, as now, and make the Homestead in fee simple, to go into effect on the first day of January, 1891. Let it provide, further, that no lien or mortgage given to run a crop after that date shall be collectable under the law. This would give him time to prepare for the change. It would give us a homestead in reality and it would do away with the lien and mortgage system. We see that Mr. Means in the Senate, and Mr. Sutton in the House, have each introduced a bill allowing the owners of homesteads to waive the right of exemption. We are afraid of it. We do not believe this method would give the needed relief, but on the contrary it would complicate the matter and leave the poor people in as bad if not worse condition than now. If any change be made, let the homestead be reduced and made a homestead in fact and in truth. No dilly dally policy will do in this important and critical matter.

### STRIKING RESEMBLANCE.

"TIME was when the office sought the man. Time now is when the office has no occasion to seek the man; the man who wants office, and his name is legion, at once goes about setting his pegs and fixing his snares and traps so as to catch the office unawares, as it were. The bill creating a railroad commission has not yet, and may not pass, but still hungry men have taken time by the forelock and have gotten up endorsements of their fitness for the place of commissioner."

Don't be deceived. The above was not taken from a North Carolina paper, nor was it written in Raleigh. The Texas Legislature is now in session and the above was clipped from a Texas paper. But how very like home! Not so much difference between the two States as some would suppose.

### WHO IS THE MAN?

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER would do no one injustice. We published the list of twenty-five gentlemen whom it was generally understood voted for Capt. Alexander for Senator in the caucus, as follows: Messrs. Baucum, Beddingfield, Blue, Cheek, Edwards, Gibbon, Ham, Hood, Marsh of Union, McDonald, Nichols, Pearson, Regan, Scott, Walker, Watson of Robeson, Wellons, Wilson, Yancey, Poir, Reid, Hughes, White of Randolph, Williams of Cumberland and Wilkins. Mr. J. J. Long, of Columbus, says that he certainly voted for Alexander. This makes one too many, and we therefore did some one of the above named gentlemen an injustice in publishing him as an Alexander man. If he will inform us we will cheerfully make the correction. Let us get at the truth of this matter. We ask the gentleman to inform us who was reported wrong.

### THREE YEARS OLD.

WITH this issue, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER enters its fourth volume. To its contemporaries, for whose uniform courtesy and kindness it is so greatly indebted, it tenders its profound acknowledgements. To its subscribers and friends who have manifested such generous interest in its progress and growth, we beg to tender the assurance of our most grateful appreciation.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER in the future as in the past, will be devoted to the best interests of our people and State.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The aggregate salaries of the chief officers of the Agricultural Department at Washington amount to \$23,000 and the South is not represented on the list.

The beginning of the inevitable is seen in the sale of Northern cotton factories to Southern companies. Sooner or later the spinning of cotton will be transferred from the North to the fields of the South.

In the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, the legal rate of interest is fixed at 6 per cent.

Twenty-six States have Railway Commissions. In nine of these, viz: California, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire and South Carolina the Commissioners have the power to fix the rates.

Memorials to the Generally Assembly endorsing our State Alliance Demands have been received from thirty-seven County Alliances and seven hundred and twenty-six Sub-Alliances, and were handed in and referred to the proper committees last Wednesday. These memorials are from seventy-five counties of the State.

The Western Union Telegraph Co. in 1886 owned 37,880 miles of line and 75,686 miles of wire; in 1887 it owned 156,814 miles of line and 524,641 miles of wire. Its profits for the year were \$4,037,281. This corporation controls and owns more miles than France, Germany, Great Britain and Austria-Hungary combined.

To cover the cotton crop of the South it takes 35,000 tons yearly, of jute bolls. It is now said that eight companies engaged in the manufacture of bagging in this country have been quietly at work and have purchased the entire supply of jute bolls in this country, afloat and in Calcutta. If this be true that this new trust has thus gotten control of the crop, they will endeavor of course to dictate absolutely the market for the coming season. We admonish the farmers and Alliances of the South to prepare to meet it by arranging to manufacture their own bagging. To meet this trust, let the cotton growers of the South form a trust of their own and make their own bagging of home material, which can be found in such great abundance and in such variety within our borders.

### FREE WOOL.

THE newspapers and politicians warn the Alliance to keep out of politics, yet the first declaration of intentions reads as follows:

"1. To labor for the education of the agricultural classes in the science of economical government in a strictly non-partisan spirit."

This is as it should be, for it encourages each Alliance to discuss each law, each proposition—to change a law that will affect the farmers' interests and with the full knowledge of how his interest is to be affected. Each member can vote as he deems best. Free wool has occupied much of the attention of our Congress, and it is now certain that the verdict of the American people is against it. This is worth much to the farmers of North Carolina, for it demonstrates to them that there is a future for sheep husbandry in this State and that woolen mills will not be driven from our State. Why a discrimination was made against the farm products—

wool, potatoes, cabbage, &c., putting them on the free list—to compete with the lowest order of pauper labor and giving to every manufacturer a high protective tariff I cannot understand. Calling wool "raw material" certainly sounds like the products of the farm had reached the lowest ebb, and that the farmers had ceased to be a factor in this country. What would be thought of the tailors if they demanded a high tariff on clothing and that they must have the "raw material" (cloth) free? Would not the manufacturers open their eyes in surprise? Yet cloth to the tailors is as much "raw material" as wool to the manufacturer. If the manufacturer has expended money and labor to make the cloth, so has the farmer expended money and labored beneath the summer's sun and amid the storms of winter to produce the wool. If ever wool goes upon the free list, let every fabric that is made out of wool go upon the free list too; let there be no discrimination against the farmer. This government has ever had and always will have a tariff, and the farmers' products are as much entitled to receive protection as the products of manufacturers. Sheep husbandry must become a great interest in our State. Our State Agricultural Society, appointed a committee to prepare a bill for the protection and encouragement of sheep husbandry and present it to this Legislature, and it is to be desired that the Legislature will not only pass it, but, in their wisdom they can improve on the bill, they will do so. The woolen mills at Elkin and Salem are a great blessing to the farmers of our State. It enables us to exchange our wool for blankets, cloth, &c., and speaking from experience I can commend both of these mills. If wool had gone upon the free list sheep would disappear in our State, and the foreign wool, at six or seven cents per lb., would have caused the factories to go to the large cities, situated on deep water, so they could get their wool from the vessels at lowest cost, and monopolists would have found it an easy job to have combined them into a trust. Elkin and Salem could not have paid our railroad freights and competed with factories in Philadelphia or others similarly situated. Our farmers should raise wool; it is easily exchanged for blankets and cloth, or brings in money that is now so badly needed. It is believed that the farmers of New York revolted against putting potatoes on the free list, and the sheep-raisers of Indiana threw the balance of power against free wool, causing the defeat of Mr. Cleveland—experience dearly bought—but I hope that it will serve as a lesson that farmers will not allow their products to be discriminated against. Senator Brown, of Georgia, was the only Southern member of Congress that thought of the sheep-raisers of the South when it came to a vote on the tariff.

WOOL-RAISER.

### INVESTIGATE THE EVIL.

THE newspapers report that there are fewer members in their seats on Saturdays and Mondays than on other days, and some papers intimate that the absentees on those days are so great as to retard public business. This shows that the railroads are getting in their work on free passes. Will not some member introduce a resolution appointing a committee with power to administer oaths—send persons and papers to investigate this evil. The people would like to know what officers legislative, judicial or executive that have been corrupted by "free passes." Every member of the Legislature that has "unclean hands" would vote for the resolution—those with "unclean hands" would consider the resolution a reflection on "the body." "Turn on the light." Let those dance who pay the fiddler. Show to the people whether or not corporations are corrupting their officers. Show them that not in this State "vices through tattered garments shine, but furs and robes hide them." Show the people there is not one law for the poor and another for the rich. Corruption in high or low should be measured by the same yardstick, and that official who receives a free pass as much guilty of corruption as the poor man who sells his vote for money. Respectfully,  
SENEX.

Bro. E. E. Harris, Deputy Organizer of Cabarrus county, established two Alliances last week with nine members each, making in all seventeen Alliances in the county, with a membership of over 500. We are glad to learn that the Alliance movement is becoming very popular in this county and that the establishment of an Alliance Store in Concord is contemplated at an early day.